



## Department of Housing and Community Development

### Virginia: Sharing A Common Wealth to End Homelessness

#### Fact Sheet

- Governor Warner directed agencies serving Virginia's homeless population to represent Virginia at a Policy Academy on Chronic Homelessness. The academy is part of a national initiative to end chronic homelessness in 10 years.
- Appointed state agency representatives are senior level executives with the ability to recommend, impact, and implement state-level policy changes. Other members include partner organizations that are impacted by the issue of homelessness.
- The initial Virginia team of thirteen attended a two-day of intensive work sessions with federal representatives at the Policy Academy in Denver, Colorado, in October. These sessions resulted in the development of Virginia's mission and strategic priorities, as well as a preliminary action plan.
- The action plan was further developed through a series of work meetings in which other invited partner organizations participated.
- The action plan, *Virginia: A Common Wealth to End Homelessness*, was approved by Governor Warner and was submitted for comment to the national Interagency Council on Homelessness in January 2004. Copies of the plan can be found at [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov) under "What's New."
- Vision: An integrated, community-based system of individualized opportunities, services, and housing has ended homelessness in Virginia.
  - Priority 1: Affordable continuum of suitable and appropriate housing options
  - Priority 2: Accessible Supportive Services
  - Priority 3: Prevention initiatives that reduce homelessness
  - Priority 4: Sufficient financial resources
  - Priority 5: An understanding of chronic homelessness at all levels
- *Virginia: A Common Wealth to End Homelessness* represents the most comprehensive initiative to-date in combating chronic homelessness and ensuring coordinated services for Virginia's homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.
- Represented on the Virginia Policy Academy team are:
  - VA Department of Housing and Community Development
  - Virginia Housing Development Authority
  - VA Department of Medical Assistance Services
  - Virginia Coalition for the Homeless
  - Virginia Interagency Action Council for the Homeless
  - VA Housing Research Center
  - Individual who was chronically homeless
  - VA Employment Commission
  - Homeward, Richmond Continuum of Care
  - VA Department of Corrections
  - VA Department of Health
  - VA Department of Rehabilitative Services
  - VA Department of Social Services
  - VA Department of Veterans Services
  - Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
  - VA Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services

